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On Other Pages

WCC Leaders Favour Further Contact With Moscow Church	Page 2
Lambeth Conference Closes in London	Page 3
Church of the Brethren Marks 250th Anniversary	Page 4
Representatives of Five Religions Ask End to Arms Tests	Page 5
In Brief.	Page 7

Document

Joint Statement of Representatives of the World Council of Churches and the Moscow Patriarchate	Page 9
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WCC to Observe Tenth Anniversary

(Nyborg) - Christian leaders from all parts of the world will attend a service in the Cathedral of Odense, Denmark, on August 24 on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the formation of the World Council of Churches.

Members of the Central Committee of the World Council are in the coast town of Nyborg, Denmark, to attend the annual session of the Council's policy making body. The Central Committee meetings began on the night of August 21 and continue through noon, August 29.

The World Council of Churches was formally constituted at an assembly in Amsterdam, Holland, on August 23, 1948. The Sunday service during the Central Committee meetings will commemorate that occasion.

Meetings concerning close relationships between the Holy Orthodox Church of Russia and the World Council were held in Utrecht, Holland, August 7-9 (see reports on pages 2 and 9). A proposal that, if the Moscow Church agrees, the Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Church be invited to send observers to the Central Committee will come before that body as it meets here.

The chairman of the Central Committee is Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of the United Lutheran Church, USA, and president of the Lutheran World Federation. Vice-chairman is Dr. Ernest A. Payne, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland.

During its nine-day session, the work of the World Council in such areas as international affairs, inter-church aid and service to refugees, study, and ecumenical action will be reviewed by the committee.

Important items on the agenda include reports on progress of major studies in the areas of religious liberty, prevention of war in an atomic age, and Christian responsibility for areas of rapid social change.

Plans for the third world assembly of the Council, tentatively scheduled for Ceylon in December 1961, will be taken up by the committee. The last assembly was held in Evanston, Illinois, USA, in 1954.

Services in Odense and Copenhagen

Two World Council presidents will preach at the tenth anniversary service in Odense. They are the Council's honorary president, Bishop George K.A. Bell of the Church of England, and Bishop Otto Dibelius of Berlin-Brandenburg, who was elected one of the six presidents of the Council in 1954.

World Council presidents to participate in the service include Bishop Sante Uberto Barbieri, Methodist, of Argentina, the Very Rev. John Baillie, Church of Scotland, and the Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, presiding bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, USA. The service will be televised by Danish State Broadcasting network.

Members of the Central Committee will visit Copenhagen August 29 and 30 as guests of the Danish Ecumenical Council and the Church of Denmark's Council on Inter-Church Relations.

King Frederik IX and Queen Ingrid will attend a special service in the Cathedral of Copenhagen on Friday, August 29. Bishop Fuglsang-Dangaard, primate of the Church of Denmark and a member of the Central Committee, will officiate.

The minister of church affairs of the Danish government, Mrs. Bodil Koch, on behalf of the Danish state, will entertain the delegates at a reception on Friday afternoon, August 29, in Christianborg Castle. Thirty members of the committee will take part in services in Danish churches on Sunday, August 31. E.P.S., Geneva

WCC Leaders Favour Further Contact With Moscow Church

(Utrecht) - Leaders from the World Council of Churches will recommend that observers should attend meetings of the WCC's Central Committee if the synod of the Moscow Church agrees.

The proposal was announced in a statement issued at the close of the first meeting to be held between representatives of the two bodies at Utrecht, August 7-9.

The statement said that the three-man Russian delegation would report to their Patriarch and Holy Synod "in a spirit of full sympathy with the fundamental principles of the ecumenical movement". They will also report favourably to the other Orthodox autonomous churches in Eastern Europe which decided not to join the World Council when it was formed in 1948.

Expressing gratitude for the meeting, the participants said it had led to a useful exchange of information and to "fuller understanding".

Items discussed included Christian unity and world peace. It was decided to suggest further discussions aiming at agreement on ways of preventing war, as a follow-up of exchanges between the WCC and the Moscow Patriarchate in recent years on the "great international problems of our time, such as disarmament, atomic warfare and nuclear weapon testing". At the same time it was noted that at present "different ways" toward peace are being followed.

The meeting, which was held throughout in private, also discussed "specific problems" of religious liberty.

Metropolitan Nikolai of Krutitsky and Colomna, head of the foreign affairs office of the Moscow Church, and Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, chairman of the WCC's Central Committee, took the chair in turn. The other members of the Russian Church's delegation were Archbishop Michael of Smolensk and Mr. Alexis Buevsky, a layman. The WCC group was completed by Metropolitan James of Melita, a member of the Council's Central Committee, and Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft, its general secretary.

Following the conversations, which were described as based on "brotherhood in Christ" and as "frank", the delegates will have to report back before firm decisions are made about future meetings. The reports will be presented to the meeting of the WCC's Central Committee at Nyborg, Denmark, August 21-29, and to the Patriarch and synod of the Russian Church.

The full text of the joint statement is on page 9.

E.P.S., Geneva

Lambeth Conference Closes in London

(London) - The 1958 Lambeth Conference ended on August 10 with a Communion service and a sermon by Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill, presiding bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States. The closing service was held in Westminster Abbey, London.

Bishop Sherrill told the 313 bishops who had attended the five-week conference at Lambeth Palace that though they had "considered some of the most important problems facing the Church and the world", the personal and pastoral aspects of that of the ministry "which can be so easily forgotten are most vital to the mission of the Church to the world in every age".

"Certainly the prophetic function of the Church is important", he said. "But we must never forget that in an era of unprecedented suspicion, hatred and cruelty, compassion stands out as a light amid total darkness. As I look back after an experience of over forty years, I am certain that the most effective ministries have been those of loving kindness rather than of denunciation, even of judgment."

The "take it or leave it" attitude is too prevalent in the churches, Bishop Sherrill said. "Thus, there is missed the personal contact with so many countless men and women who need the Christian faith all the more because many of them have no realisation of the need. Mass evangelism may have an important place, but there can be no substitute for personal contact."

The significance of this personal concern has a direct bearing upon the relationship of the churches in the West to churches in the East, Bishop Sherrill said. "Today in a deeper sense those who go to another land must go not as supposedly superior teachers or technicians but as Christian brethren as eager to receive as to give. Between all our churches and provinces there should be closer ties, a greater pastoral responsibility for one another."

Earlier, an interim report had been issued by the bishops, calling the nations of the world to forego selfish policies in the interests of world peace.

"We know", the statement says, "that in the hearts of the vast majority of men and women of all races there is a haunting fear of war and a deep desire for peace. In our experience of Christ, we who represent many countries and peoples have found a unity which helps us to transcend our differences."

"Unless war and its causes can be banished, nuclear weapons threaten the annihilation of whole peoples, the destruction of our material civilisation, and the corruption of mankind. But merely to banish war is not to achieve true peace. True peace is an order in which men are free to live under justice and according to

righteousness in which the resources of the world are developed and distributed for the benefit of all, in which the only war is against poverty, ignorance, disease and oppression, in which the results of man's knowledge and discovery are used not for destruction, but for enlightenment and health."

Recognising that nations have interests which it is their duty to preserve, the bishops called upon them "to forego those policies of self-interest which deny the interests of others. We call on people of all faiths, and those who lead them, to work and pray persistently for the development of a community of peoples wherein, with whatever limitations of national sovereignty may be necessary, all shall live under the rule of law."

The final report of the conference will be published on August 26.

E.P.S., Geneva

Church of the Brethren Marks 250th Anniversary

(Kassel) - More than 400 members of the Church of the Brethren, joined by members from India, Nigeria, and Ecuador, and friends in Germany, celebrated the 250th anniversary of the church with special ceremonies in Kassel, Schwarzenau and Berleburg, Germany, from August 2-7. The church, which now has about 250,000 members in the United States, had its beginning in Schwarzenau in 1708.

During the five-day celebrations, the Brethren saw 20 families receive heifers, the gift of Brethren in southern Ohio; visited the refugee camp of Friedland, near the East German border, and saw 510 refugees from former German territory crowd off a train at the camp; and finally, at the close of the week, travelled from Kassel to Schwarzenau for a rededication service on the banks of the Eder river, where the first Brethren were baptised.

Dr. M. R. Zigler, director of Brethren Service in Europe, stressed that "our whole interest in Europe has been peace and reconciliation between people who have been fighting each other". The Brethren returned to Europe at the close of World War II and have done extensive work with youth volunteers in Germany and Austria.

During the five days, the Brethren were thanked by many people, in many different ways, for their "enormous contribution" in the 13 years since the end of the war.

Both volunteers and leaders described Brethren work in Germany and Austria; outlined the work of the Greek Team, an international and interdenominational group of young agriculturists working in northern Greece; described the work of HELP, Homeless European Land Programme, which is helping refugees in Italy re-settle in Sardinia; EIRENE, a team of conscientious objectors, sponsored by the Brethren and the Mennonites, working in a Moroccan village; the student exchange programme, which has enabled more than 700 high school students from Europe and the United States to change places and live in each others homes; the Brethren work camp programme which this year sponsored six camps; and the Heifer Project, begun by the Brethren, but now an interdenominational programme.

At Schwarzenau, in a tent next to the village's new school, named after Alexander Mack, the church's founder, Brethren heard speeches by Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft, general secretary of the World Council of Churches; Mr. Desmond W. Bittinger, moderator of the Church of the Brethren; Bishop Ernst Wilm of the Evangelical Church of Germany; and Dr. Paul H. Bowman, chairman of the 250th Anniversary Committee.

E.P.S., Geneva

Brethren Killed in Plane, Car Crashes

Twenty-two members of the Church of the Brethren, returning to the United States after the 250th anniversary celebrations marking their church's founding, were aboard the KLM plane which crashed in the Atlantic on August 14. Thirteen of the 22 victims were from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. All 99 passengers aboard the plane were killed.

On August 16, Mrs. Amy Zigler, wife of Dr. M. R. Zigler, Brethren Service Commission representative in Europe, was killed in a car crash near Vestervik, Sweden. Dr. Zigler was seriously injured and two people travelling in another car involved in the accident were killed. Dr. Zigler has served the Church of the Brethren in Europe since 1948 and retires in September.

E.P.S., Geneva

Representatives of Five Religions Ask End to Arms Tests

(Chicago) - More than 1,000 delegates from 20 countries attended a five-day meeting of the International Association for Liberal Christianity and Religious Freedom on the campus of the University of Chicago (Illinois), August 9-13.

The association asked for an immediate world-wide suspension of nuclear weapon tests. It suggested the establishment of an agency to control both conventional and nuclear armaments under the aegis of the United Nations.

The meeting brought together spokesmen for Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. The delegates discussed basic beliefs the five religions can hold together in the world today.

A statement adopted by the group agreed to "respect the religious convictions of all individuals and churches, but to resist all attempts to use any legal or extra-legal coercion to impose the taboos of one religion on the members of another".

They urged "the religions of man" to accept obligation for narrowing the gulf between the economically advanced and the economically backward. They also called for a united front on behalf of "comprehensive population policies", including dissemination of knowledge of effective methods of birth control.

Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, Pakistan's former foreign minister and a judge at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, told the delegates that the Koran includes specific instructions for resolving armed conflicts, and that if the principles "inculcated by Islam for the regulation of human relations and human intercourse were generally accepted and put into effect, most of the problems with which we are faced today would be put in course of solution".

One of the opening speakers, Dr. Wilhelm Pauck, professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York, told the group that Protestantism would remain the dynamic movement it has been in Christianity only "if theological liberalism actually comes to determine the life of Protestant churches".

The liberal organisation has member bodies in 20 countries whose estimated membership totals ten million.

E.P.S., Geneva

Lutheran Reports on Protestant Gains in Brazil

(New York) - The Protestant Church in Brazil has gained more than 200,000 members during the last five years, according to a report by Dr. Walter E. Bock, field director of evangelism for the United Lutheran Church in America, just back from a two-months' tour there.

There are 1,741,430 Protestants in Brazil, according to the last official count. About 93 per cent of the country's 61,000,000 population are Roman Catholics.

Dr. Bock said two developments account for the growth of Protestantism and cited the building of more churches in the suburbs and the increased use of Brazilian ministers. He said that there are more than 500,000 Lutherans in Brazil.

E.P.S., Geneva

Methodists Discuss Role in World Church

(Oxford) - More than a hundred Methodists from five continents discussed how world Methodism can play a larger role in the world church, during the first Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies. The ten-day institute was held at Oxford, England, this month.

In a statement of findings issued at the end of the institute, delegates stressed the value of the Methodist "inheritance" but added that Methodists do not seek merely "to perpetuate our own life as some kind of world sect". Rather, the statement said, Methodists "should enter afresh into a present and living enjoyment of the great gifts which God gave our fathers, that they may be made ever more widely available in the growing unity of the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

The majority of the participants came from the United Kingdom and the United States. The institute was sponsored by the Oxford Memorial Committee of the World Methodist Conference.

E.P.S., Geneva

YMCA Executive Committee Meets in Belgium

(Brussels) - Thirty-three YMCA leaders from 20 member movements gathered at Brussels from July 31 to August 8 for the annual meeting of the executive committee of the World Alliance of YMCAs. Another 50 were present for meetings of committees and commissions.

The Centennial of the National Alliance of YMCAs in Belgium was observed at a reception and a public meeting on August 2 and a large outdoor rally on August 3. The rally at the Esplanade of the World Exhibition was attended by 10,000 persons. This was the first official meeting of the World Alliance to be held in Belgium.

Sir Frank Willis, chief consultant on ecumenical questions and YMCA-church relationships, reported on the religious situations in nine Latin American countries which he visited. He commented on the increase in the number and influence of Pentecostal and similar sects.

Neither these groups, the historic Protestant churches, nor the dominant Roman Catholic Church, have concerned themselves to any great extent with relating the message of the Christian Gospel to social and economic life, he said. The motivation of social change in Latin America has been primarily secular. Protestants and Roman Catholics are living by and large in two different worlds, Sir Frank pointed out. Some ways must be found to enable these two groups to work together more closely, he said.

Dr. Charles D. Sherman, finance minister of the Republic of Liberia and president of the World Alliance, commenting on a recent West Africa YMCA consultation, declared that Africa is no longer a sleeping giant.

Up to this time others have spoken for Africa; now Africans are demanding to speak for themselves, Dr. Sherman said. He referred to the meeting in April of eight independent states. No longer are we to think of Africa in terms of the black man only but of black and white seeking to live together. Dr. Sherman said the Christian ethic has not been interpreted in ways that seem adequate and relevant for African youth. He warned that those who have a veneer of Christianity are impervious to a basic Christian orientation.

A new structure approved by the Committee calls for the work of four standing committees: Programme and Leadership, Extension and Intermovement Aid, Finance, and Work with Refugees and Migrants. Other functions, such as Publication Services and Ecumenical Questions, are to be related directly to the Secretary General.

Plans for the next meeting of the YMCAs World Alliance in 1961 to be held preferably in the Middle East, were discussed. Secretary General Paul M. Limbert called upon the Executive Committee to see this as an opportunity for a programme "focussed upon some of the crucial questions which face a lay Christian movement which is trying to respond faithfully to the call of God in a sorely troubled world".

E.P.S., Geneva

World Methodist Council Studies Church Unity

(Freudenstadt) - Fifty Methodist leaders, members of the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council, evaluated various plans for church unity during a five-day session this month in Freudenstadt, Germany.

Among the church union plans involving Methodists discussed were those with the Anglican Church in England, with the Presbyterians and Anglicans in West Africa, North India and Pakistan, and with the Presbyterians, Anglicans and Baptists in Ceylon.

In other action, the group approved a resolution recommending that a conference of Methodist leaders in Central and South Africa hold a conference in April, 1959, to work on the problem of racial tensions. The motion was presented by Dr. T. Webb of Johannesburg, South Africa.

The committee voted to hold a European Methodist youth conference in Stuttgart, Germany, next January. The next World Methodist Conference will be in August, 1961, in Oslo, Norway.

E.P.S., Geneva

WCC Work Campers Killed in Saar

(Völklingen) - Two participants in a World Council of Churches ecumenical work camp at Volkingen, Saar, were killed in a motor-coach accident on August 15. The two victims were an 18-year-old girl from the Saar and a young American boy from Troy, New York.

The motor-coach, filled with 36 participants from the work camp returning from an excursion, left the road when its brakes failed and plunged down a 180-foot precipice. Of the 29 injured, four are still in serious condition.

The work camp, one of 40 being held this year by the WCC, is helping to build a hostel for refugees working in local industries in the Saar, a project of Hilfs-werk and Innere Mission of Germany.

E.P.S., Geneva

In Brief

The Iona Community in Scotland held a lay training week from August 2-9, the second in a series of training courses sponsored by the Directors' Association of Lay Institutes in Europe. The first was held last year in Oud Poelgeest, the Netherlands. Young ministers in training with the Iona Community, and visitors from abroad, heard speeches by Dr. H. Renkewith of the Evangelical Academy at Arnoldshain, Germany, and Pastor Werner Simpfendorfer of the academy at Bad Boll.

Mr. Adlai Stevenson, 1956 United States Democratic candidate for president, preached to more than two thousand people who packed the Baptist Church in Moscow on August 2.

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The American Friends Service Committee has issued an appeal for \$30,000 to aid families in Lebanon.

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The Ecumenical Synod of World Reformed Churches has adopted a resolution saying that no single race should deem itself entitled to a privileged position or consider itself superior to other races. The meeting of the synod was held in Potchefstroom, South Africa, the middle of August.

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Members of the Society of Friends have urged the United States to withdraw its military forces from Lebanon "at the earliest possible date". In a statement adopted in Washington, D.C., several hundred Quakers attending a special conference on peace and social order also called for "immediate cessation" of the testing of nuclear weapons.

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In September 1958, Rev. Fredrik Franklin of Sweden, who for some years has been secretary for religious emphasis for the Council of YMCAs of India and Ceylon, will become general secretary of the National Council of YMCAs of Sweden. The YMCA publishing house of Calcutta has recently published a manual, Youth at Worship, compiled by Mr. Franklin, which is designed as a guide for leaders of group devotions in the YMCA.

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Dr. Theodore A. Gill, managing editor of "The Christian Century", influential undenominational weekly magazine in the United States, has been elected president of San Francisco Theological Seminary.

E.P.S., Geneva

DocumentJoint Statement of Representatives of the World Council of Churches
and the Moscow Patriarchate, following a meeting in Utrecht, Holland, August 7-9

"1) We are grateful to God that after a long period of preparation a meeting of delegates from the Holy Orthodox Church of Russia and of delegates of the World Council of Churches has taken place. The meeting was attended by the following persons:

From the Patriarchate of Moscow: Metropolitan Nikolai of Krutitsky and Colomna; Archbishop Michael of Smolensk; and Mr. Alex Buevsky; and

From the World Council of Churches: Dr. Franklin Clark Fry; Metropolitan James of Melita; and Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft.

"This first meeting was in the nature of the case a meeting for the purpose of becoming better acquainted with each other. This purpose has been served, as we exchanged information, explained our respective positions, and arrived at fuller understanding of each other.

"2) The basis which enabled us to meet was our brotherhood in Christ and so we have spoken frankly with each other about the real nature and aims of the church bodies we represent.

"3) We found that we shared the Christian concern for the unity of Christians and the manifestation of their unity in the life of the churches. The delegates of the Holy Orthodox Church of Russia explained how their church prays and works for the reunion of all Christians. The delegates of the World Council of Churches described how the World Council of Churches seeks to promote church unity both by the theological work of the Faith and Order Commission and in many other ways involving Christians at all levels of church life.

"4) We share a deep concern for world peace with justice and freedom. The two delegations expressed the determination to work toward this objective. They feel the solemn responsibility of the churches in every country to call upon their governments and their people to do everything in their power to prevent war. During recent years the World Council of Churches and the Moscow Patriarchate have exchanged their convictions about the great international problems of our time such as disarmament, atomic warfare and nuclear weapon testing. At this meeting we have continued this conversation about our respective positions. Further contacts will be needed in order to achieve agreement about the different ways toward peace which each is following.

"5) The fundamental importance of the liberty with which Christ has made men free commanded our attention, and each delegation expressed its views on the manner in which religious liberty should find expressions in society. We gave consideration to a number of specific problems which the churches encounter as they seek to manifest their faith in life and work. Our discussion contributed to a better understanding of these problems.

"6) With regard to the future the delegates of the Holy Orthodox Church of Russia declared that they would give a report to the Patriarch and the Holy Synod of their church and that they would do so in a spirit of full sympathy with the fundamental principles of the ecumenical movement. They will give a similar report on the meeting to those Orthodox sister-churches which participated in the Moscow Conference of 1948.

"The World Council delegates declared that they would report to the Central Committee of the WCC and that they would propose that, if this would be agreeable to the Holy Orthodox Church of Russia, observers should be invited to attend meetings of the Central Committee.

"The delegates express gratitude to the Lord for the privilege of meeting together in the spirit of Christian love."

E.P.S., Geneva

